

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-20, 22, and 24-26 are pending. Claims 5, 21, and 23 have been cancelled. Claim 26 is new. Claims 1-4, 11, 16-20, and 22 have been rejected. Claims 5-10, 12-15, 21 and 23-25 have been objected to but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including the base and intermediary claim limitations.

Claim 1 has incorporated the limitations of claim 5 and should be allowable. Claims 2-4, and 6-17 being dependent upon claim 1 should be allowable for at the reason claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 18 has incorporated the limitations of claim 21 and should be allowable. Claims 19-20 being dependent upon claim 18 should be allowable for at the reason claim 18 is allowable.

Claim 22 has incorporated the limitations of claim 23 and should be allowable. Claims 24-25 being dependent upon claim 22 should be allowable for at the reason claim 22 is allowable.

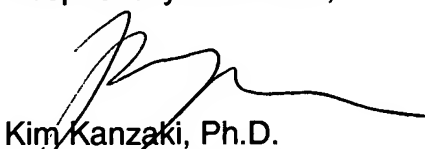
Claim 26 is new and incorporates the limitations of claims 1, 11, and 12 and should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

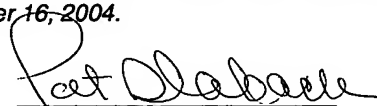
If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kim Kanzaki, Ph.D.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 37,652

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004.*

Pat Slaback  
Name

  
Signature